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(See inside cover)

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**CONTROL NO.** Z-15213/82

NPIC/IEG (04/82)

29 APRIL 1982

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**(c) NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER**Page 1 of 1Attachment to Z-15213/82  
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**HIP-F ASSAULT HELICOPTER**  
**PLAYA BARACOA AIRFIELD, CUBA**

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1. (S/D) **SIGNIFICANCE:** CUBAN AIRBORNE FORCES HAVE RECEIVED THE HIP-F ASSAULT HELICOPTER.2. (S/D) **REMARKS:** [REDACTED] THREE HIP-F ASSAULT HELICOPTERS WERE ON A PARKING APRON AT PLAYA BARACOA AIRFIELD. PLAYA BARACOA HOUSES AT LEAST TWO AIRBORNE BATTALIONS. THESE ARE THE ONLY KNOWN AIRBORNE UNITS IN THE CUBAN ARMY. A REVIEW OF PAST IMAGERY SUGGESTS THAT ONE, POSSIBLY TWO, HIP-F MAY HAVE BEEN PRESENT AS EARLY [REDACTED]

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(S/D) THE HIP-F IS THE EXPORT VERSION OF THE HIP-E. ONE OF THE MOST HEAVILY ARMED HELICOPTERS IN THE WORLD, THE HIP-F'S ARMAMENT CONSISTS OF A CHIN-MOUNTED 12.7MM MACHINE GUN, SIX 32-ROUND 57MM ROCKET PODS, AND SIX AT-3 SAGGER ANTITANK GUIDED MISSILE LAUNCH RAILS.

(S/D) PRIOR TO BEING DEPLOYED TO PLAYA BARACOA ALL HIP-F IN CUBA HAD BEEN GARRISONED AT CIENFUEGOS AIRFIELD [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] THE RECENT ARRIVAL OF HIND D AT CIENFUEGOS APPEARS TO HAVE GIVEN THE CUBANS AN OPPORTUNITY TO UPGRADE THEIR AIRBORNE ASSAULT FORCE AT PLAYA BARACOA. FURTHERMORE, THE ADDITION OF THESE HELICOPTERS TO THE CUBAN AIRBORNE EQUIPMENT AND ORGANIZATIONAL INVENTORY WILL GREATLY INCREASE THE ORGANIC FIREPOWER OF THE AIRBORNE UNITS. THIS APPEARS TO DEMONSTRATE A DEVELOPING CUBAN COMMITMENT TO THE TACTIC OF USING ARMED HELICOPTERS IN SUPPORT OF OFFENSIVE AIRBORNE OPERATIONS. [REDACTED]

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3. (S) [REDACTED] COORDINATES 23-01-54N 082-34-47W.

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4. (U) COLLATERAL REFERENCE: JANE'S - ALL THE WORLD'S AIRCRAFT, 1980-81.

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